

February 17, 2009

Baldwin Brook Farm
176 Depot Rd.
Canterbury, CT 06331

Dear Environment Committee Member,

This letter is to be used as testimony for bill #5504.

Please oppose bill #5504 which is a bill to increase the current dairy licensing fee from \$30 to \$500 and as much as \$3000 annually. As a small, raw milk dairy farmer, I urge you to please exempt the small stores that sell less than 50 gallons of milk per day from this astronomical jump in licensing fee.

This increase will likely cause the small niche markets to stop carrying local milk. The philosophy behind this increase is good...to help the local CT dairy farmer, but in the long run, we believe these proposed fees will be an impediment to milk sales in the state of CT. These fees will likely negatively impact the amount of shelf space and number of outlets which will be able to afford to retail milk.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Chris and Mavis Newton
Owners/Managers
Baldwin Brook Farm
Raw Milk Dairy
Canterbury, CT